

## **FLOATING BEARINGS**

Effective: October 13, 1988

Revised: June 21, 2004

Description. This work shall consist of furnishing and installing floating (pot type) bearing assemblies as shown on the plans.

Floating bearings shall be the following types:

Fixed:	Allows rotation in any direction and fixed against translation.
Guided Expansion:	Allows rotation in any direction and translation in limited directions.
Non-Guided Expansion:	Allows rotation in any direction and translation in any direction.

The floating bearings shall be of the type specified and designed for the loads shown on the plans. The design of the top and bottom bearing plates are based on detail assumptions which are not applicable to all suppliers and may require modifications depending on the supplier chosen by the Contractor. The overall depth dimension for the floating bearings shall be as specified on the plans. The horizontal dimensions shall be limited to the available bearing seat area. Any modifications required to accommodate the bearings chosen shall be submitted to the Engineer for approval prior to ordering materials. Modifications required shall be made at no additional cost to the State. Inverted pot bearing configurations will not be permitted.

The Contractor shall comply with all manufacturer's material, fabrication and installation requirements specified.

Submittals. Shop drawings shall be submitted to the Engineer for approval according to Article 105.04 of the Standard Specifications. In addition the Contractor shall furnish certified copies of the bearing manufacturer's test reports on the physical properties of the component materials for the bearings to be furnished and a certification by the bearing manufacturer stating the bearing assemblies furnished conform to all the requirements shown on the plans and as herein specified. Submittals with insufficient test data and supporting certifications will be rejected.

Materials. The materials for the floating bearing assemblies shall be according to the following:

- (a) Elastomeric Materials. The rubber disc shall be according to Article 1083.02 of the Standard Specifications for "55 Duro" rubber.
- (b) Polytetrafluoroethylene (TFE) Material. The TFE material shall be according to Article 1083.03 of the Standard Specifications.
- (c) Stainless Steel Sheets: The stainless steel sheets shall be of the thickness specified and shall be according to ASTM A 240, Type 302 or 304. The sliding

surface shall be polished to a bright mirror finish less than 510 nm (20 micro-in.) root mean square.

- (d) Structural Steel. All structural steel used in the bearing assemblies shall be according to AASHTO M 270M Grade 345 (M 270, Grade 50), unless otherwise specified.
- (e) Threaded studs. The threaded stud, when required, shall conform to the requirements of AASHTO M 164M (M 164).

Fabrication and Installation of Floating Bearings. The bearings shall be complete factory-produced assemblies. They shall provide for rotation in all directions and for sliding, when specified, in directions as indicated on the plans. All bearings shall be furnished as a complete unit from one manufacturing source. All material used in the manufacture shall be new and unused with no reclaimed material incorporated into the finished assembly.

When directed by the Engineer, the manufacturer shall furnish random samples of component materials used in the bearings for testing by the Department.

The bearings furnished shall be manufactured so that the rotational capability is provided by an assembly having a rubber disc of proper thickness, confined in a manner so it behaves like a fluid. The disc shall be installed, with a snug fit, into a steel cylinder and confined by a tight fitting piston. The outside diameter of the piston shall be no more than 750 microns (0.03 in.) less than the inside diameter of the cylinder at the interface level of the piston and rubber disc. The sides of the piston shall be beveled. TFE sheets shall be attached to the top and bottom of the rubber disc to facilitate rotation of the rubber disc. Suitable brass sealing rings shall be provided to prevent any extrusion between piston and cylinder.

The translation capability for both guided and non-guided expansion bearings shall be provided by means of a polished stainless steel sliding plate that bears on a TFE sheet bonded and recessed to the top surface of the piston. The sliding element of expansion bearings shall be restrained against movement in the fixed direction by exterior guide bars capable of resisting the horizontal forces or 20 percent of the vertical design load on the bearing applied in any direction, whichever is greater. The sliding surfaces of the guide bar shall be of TFE sheet and stainless steel. Guiding off of the fixed base, or any extension of it, will not be permitted.

Structural steel bearing plates shall be fabricated according to Article 505.04(I) of the Standard Specifications. Prior to shipment the exposed edges and other exposed portions of the structural steel bearing plates shall be cleaned and painted according to Articles 506.03 and 506.04 of the Standard Specifications. Painting shall be with the paint specified for shop painting of structural steel. During cleaning and painting the stainless steel, TFE sheet and neoprene shall be protected from abrasion and paint.

TFE sheets shall be bonded to steel under factory controlled conditions using heat and pressure for the time required to set the epoxy adhesive used. The TFE sheet shall be free from bubbles and the sliding surface shall be burnished to an absolutely smooth surface.

The steel piston and the steel cylinder shall each be machined from a solid piece of steel. The steel base cylinder shall be either integrally machined, recessed into with a snug fit, or continuously welded to its bottom steel bearing plate.

Packaging. Each floating bearing assembly shall be fully assembled at the manufacturing plant and delivered to the construction site as complete units. The assemblies shall be packaged, crated or wrapped so the assemblies will not be damaged during handling, transporting and shipping. The bearings shall be held together with removable restraints so sliding surfaces are not damaged.

Centerlines shall be marked on both top and base plates for alignment in the field. The bearings shall be shipped in moisture-proof and dust-proof covers.

Testing. Each floating bearing assembly shall be load tested to 150 percent of the rated capacity at a 2 percent slope by the manufacturer prior to shipment. The load of 150 percent of the rated capacity shall be maintained for at least 30 minutes. Any bearings showing failure of the sealing rings or other component parts after this load test shall be replaced. The Contractor shall furnish to the Department a notarized certification from the bearing manufacturer stating the floating bearings have been load tested as specified. The Department reserves the right to perform the specified load test on one or more of the furnished bearings. If the tested bearing shows failure it shall be replaced and the remaining bearings shall be load tested for acceptance at the Contractor's expense.

Shear Inhibited Disc Type Bearing. Shear Inhibited Disc type bearing assemblies may be used in lieu of the Floating (Pot type) Bearing assemblies at the option of the Contractor. All requirements specified for floating bearings shall be applicable for the shear inhibited disc type bearings except as follows:

- (a) The Structural Element shall be restricted from shear by the pin and ring design and need not be completely confined as with the Floating Bearing design.
- (b) The Structural Element shall be molded of Polyether Urethane compound and shall be monolithic. The physical properties of the Polyether Urethane shall be according to one of the following requirements:

PHYSICAL PROPERTY	ASTM TEST METHOD	REQUIREMENTS			
		COMPOUND A		COMPOUND B	
		MIN.	MAX.	MIN.	MAX.
Hardness, Type D durometer	D 2240	46	50	60	64
Tensile Stress, kPa (psi) At 100% elongation	D 412	10,350 kPa (1500 psi)	--	13,800 kPa (2000 psi)	--
Tensile Stress, kPa (psi) At 300% elongation	D 412	19,300 kPa (2800 psi)	--	25,500 kPa (3700 psi)	--
Tensile Strength, kPa (psi)	D 412	27,600 kPa (4000 psi)	--	34,500 kPa (5000 psi)	--
Ultimate Elongation, %	D 412	300	--	220	--
Compression Set 22 hr. at 70 °C (158 °F), %	D 395	--	40	--	40

Bearings shall be erected according to Article 505.08(f) of the Standard Specifications.

Exposed edges and other exposed portions of the structural steel plates shall be field painted as specified for Structural Steel.

Basis of Payment. This work will be paid for at the contract unit price each for FLOATING BEARINGS, FIXED; FLOATING BEARINGS, GUIDED EXPANSION; or FLOATING BEARINGS, NON-GUIDED EXPANSION of the load rating specified.

When the fabrication and erection of floating bearings is accomplished under separate contracts, the applicable requirements of Article 505.09 shall apply.

Fabricated floating bearings and other materials complying with the requirements of this item, furnished and accepted, will be paid for at the contract unit price each for FURNISHING FLOATING BEARINGS, FIXED, FURNISHING FLOATING BEARINGS, GUIDED EXPANSION or FURNISHING FLOATING BEARINGS, NON-GUIDED EXPANSION of the load rating specified.

Storage and care of fabricated floating bearings and other materials complying with the requirements of this item by the Fabrication Contractor beyond the specified storage period, will be paid for at the contract unit price per calendar day for STORAGE OF FLOATING BEARINGS if a pay item is provided for in the contract, or will be paid for according to Article 109.04 if a pay item is not provided in the contract.

Floating bearings and other materials fabricated under this item erected according to the requirements of the specifications, and accepted, will be paid for at the contract unit price each for ERECTING FLOATING BEARINGS, FIXED, ERECTING FLOATING BEARINGS, GUIDED EXPANSION or ERECTING FLOATING BEARINGS, NON-GUIDED EXPANSION of the load rating specified.